August 2nd.

The King has been stabbed, but not dangerously, as he got into his carriage, by Margaret Nicholson, a madwoman. She was seized immediately, but he insisted upon her not having any further punishment than being conveyed to Bedlam. "She must be mad, she must be mad," he repeated, "to want to kill me." I presume Louis Quinze did not feel the same certainty of madness in a similar case, when Damien was drawn asunder by four horses.[1]

TO SIR EDWARD SWINBURNE,

Paris, September ijth, 1786,

DEAR BROTHER,—We arrived here safe and well, after staying a week in Normandy. Our passage from Brighthelmstone was pleasant enough,

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[1] Robert François Damien, who attempted to assassinate Louis XV. on the 4th of January, 1757, was the son of a porter at Arras, and a man of such bad character, that he went by the name of Robert le Diable. The tortures which this wretch endured, in order to make him confess his motives and accomplices, exceeds all belief. His flesh was torn to pieces with red-hot pincers. Boiling oil and lead were thrown upon the wounds: his limbs were cut off in detail, and he did not expire

until the
last was hacked from his body.